

Appl. No 10/710,010
Amdt. Dated November 8, 2005
Reply to office action of October 31, 2005

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Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A candlewick-fixing device for use with a burning candlewick comprising:
 - a. a handle with a first end and a second end;
 - b. a candlewick hook with a straight portion end and a bent portion end, the straight portion end attached to the handle second end, the hook ~~circular~~ bent portion end positioned adjoining [[the]] a bend forming a circular opening, the handle first end sufficient distance from the second end such that the user may position the hook around a candlewick without encountering the heat from the candle;
 - c. the candlewick hook circular opening arranged with an inside diameter of one-fourth inch or greater such that the hook may be positioned around a candlewick wherein horizontal motion in any direction engages the candlewick and may be used to straighten the candlewick; and
 - d. the handle first end connected to a flame snuffer with an opening end and an attachment end, the attachment end attached to the handle first end.
2. (previously presented) The candlewick-fixing device of claim 1 further comprising the handle is fabricated from a material chosen from the group consisting of metal, ceramic, plastic, and wood.
3. (previously presented) The candlewick-fixing device of claim 1 further comprising the handle contains a bend arranged such that the bend convex side may rest on a support surface such that any debris on the candlewick hook is elevated above the support surface.
4. (previously presented) The candlewick-fixing device of claim 1 further comprising a plate with an upper surface and a lower surface and configured such that the snuffer opening end may rest on the upper surface with the lower surface in contact with a support surface such that combustion products on the snuffer are deposited on the plate upper surface.
5. (previously presented) The candlewick-fixing device of claim 3 further comprising a plate with an upper surface and a lower surface and configured such that the snuffer opening end may rest on the upper surface with the lower surface in contact with a

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support surface such that combustion products on the snuffer are deposited on the plate upper surface.

6. (previously presented) The candlewick-fixing device of claim 5 further comprising the flame snuffer is rotatably mounted to the handle first end.
7. (previously presented) The candlewick-fixing device of claim 6 further comprising the handle is fabricated from a material chosen from the group consisting of metal, ceramic, plastic, and wood.
8. (previously presented) A combination candlewick straightening device and flame snuffer comprising:
 - a. means for repositioning a candlewick;
 - b. means for extinguishing a candle flame; and
 - c. means for supporting the device and snuffer such that the candlewick repositioning means and the candle flame extinguishing means are elevated above the support surface.
9. (currently amended) A method of repositioning a burning candlewick comprising:
 - a. grasping a candlewick fixing device by the handle;
 - b. locating the candlewick-fixing device in proximity above the burning candlewick;
 - c. lowering the candlewick fixing device to surround the burning candlewick;
 - d. moving the candlewick fixing device in a desired horizontal direction horizontally forward, backward, side-to-side, or at an angle in between wherein the candlewick is repositioned in the desired direction by contact with the candlewick fixing device;
 - e. repeating step d as necessary;
 - f. removing the candlewick fixing device from contact with the candlewick; and
 - g. raising the candlewick fixing device above the candlewick, [[; and]]
 - h. ~~placing the candlewick fixing device on a surface.~~